



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 2, 2012

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

H.B. 5319, "An Act Concerning the Revision of Municipal Charters"

CCM supports this bill.

The objective of charter revision statutes should be to encourage such revisions where they are necessary or appropriate. The existing law may actually be preventing municipalities from appointing charter revision commissions. There are a number of municipalities that would be amenable to updating specific parts of their charters which have become outdated or problematic over time, but don't want to run the risk of opening it up to a wholesale re-write. (CCM knows of at least one town that has typos in its charter, but will not correct it for fear of opening a long, unnecessarily laborious process.)

By the same token, for those towns and cities which *do* want to open up their charters for a full-blown review, under the proposed language they could easily draft the commission's charging resolution accordingly.

This is a sound proposal that would remove some of the gridlock associated with charter reform.

CCM urges the Committee to favorably report this bill.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas at rthomas@ccm-ct.org at (203) 498-3000.